



Food and Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

January 25, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of the Arkansas's State Plan Amendment,  
School Year 2020-2021 and Summer 2021

**TO:** Bill Ludwig  
Regional Administrator  
Southwest Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved Arkansas's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2020-2021 on June 21, 2021, approved an amendment on August 3, 2021, and approved a plan to operate P-EBT for summer 2021 on July 13, 2021.

Arkansas proposes to amend its school year 2020-2021 and summer 2021 P-EBT plans to reissue expunged benefits at the request of households, or, as appropriate, during case review. Arkansas will only consider requests from households that did not spend any of their benefits. Households that did not access any of their benefits for school year 2020-2021 or summer 2021 may have been unfamiliar with P-EBT or unaware that they had been issued benefits. Reissued benefits will be expunged after 274 or 365 days of non-use, depending on issuance date. Arkansas estimates that it will reissue \$2.3 million benefits to 6,200 children.

FNS approves Arkansas's P-EBT plan amendment to allow for the reissuance of expunged benefits.

FNS reminds Arkansas of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's [April 27 memo on P-EBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Administrator